# Executive Proclamation
## State of South Dakota
## Office of the Governor

***Whereas***, The bald eagle was designated as the United States of America's national emblem on June 20, 1782, by our country's founding fathers at the Second Continental Congress; and,

***Whereas***, The bald eagle is unique to North America and represents such American values and attributes as freedom, courage, strength, spirit, justice, quality, and excellence; and,

***Whereas***, The bald eagle is the central image used in the Great Seal of the United States and in the logos of many branches of the U.S. government; and,

***Whereas***, The bald eagle's image, meaning, and symbolism have played a significant role in the beliefs, traditions, religions, lifestyles, and heritage of Americans from all walks of life, and in American art, music, literature, architecture, commerce, education, culture, and on U.S. stamps, currency, and coinage; and,

***Whereas***, The bald eagle was once in danger of possible extinction and is making an encouraging comeback to America's skies, including South Dakota; and,

***Whereas***, The bald eagle was federally classified as an endangered species in the lower 48 states under the Endangered Species Act in 1973; and,

***Whereas***, The U.S. Department of the Interior and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service plan to remove the bald eagle from protection under the Endangered Species Act in 2007, but will continue to protect it under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act of 1940 and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918; and,

***Whereas***, The recovery of America's bald eagle population was largely accomplished due to the vigilant efforts of numerous caring agencies, corporations, organizations, and citizens:

***Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds***, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim June 20, 2008, as

## AMERICAN EAGLE DAY

in South Dakota.

***In Witness Whereof***, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twelfth Day of May in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Eight.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

**Attest:**

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State